

CLAIMS

1. A method of detecting a watermark in an information signal, comprising:

5 deriving a set of correlation results by correlating the information signal with a watermark for each of a plurality of relative positions of the information signal with respect to the watermark; and

 determining whether a watermark is present by comparing at least part of the set of correlation results with information about an expected shape of a correlation peak in the results.

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2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the comparing comprises a cross-correlation of at least part of the set of correlation results with information about the expected shape of a correlation peak.

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3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2 further comprising comparing the output of comparison with a threshold value to determine the presence of a valid watermark.

20 4. A method according to claim 3 wherein the threshold value varies according to the expected shape of the correlation peak.

5. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the information about an expected shape of the correlation peak is derived from knowledge of processing operations that the information signal has undergone or expected to have undergone.

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6. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the information about an expected shape of the correlation peak is derived from the shape of previous correlation results.

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7. A method according to claim 6 wherein the previous correlation results are results for: the same type of information signal; an information signal which has been subject to the same processing steps; an information signal which has been distributed through the same channel.

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8. A method according to any one of the preceding claims further comprising identifying clusters of correlation results which are likely to represent correlation peaks and performing the step of determining whether a watermark is present only on the identified clusters of results.

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9. A method according to claim 8 wherein the step of identifying clusters of correlation results comprises determining all correlation results in the set which exceed the threshold value and then determining which of those correlation results are located within a predetermined distance of each other.

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10. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein a plurality of watermarks are used, the step of deriving a set of correlation results being repeated for each watermark, the method further comprising determining information about the shape of a correlation peak in the correlation results for one of the watermarks, and using that information in a comparison for another of the watermarks.

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11. Software for performing the method according to any one of the preceding claims.

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12. A watermark detector for detecting a watermark in an information signal, comprising:

means for deriving a set of correlation results by correlating the information signal with a watermark for each of a plurality of relative positions of the information signal with respect to the watermark; and

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means for determining whether a watermark is present by comparing at least part of the set of correlation results with information about an expected shape of a correlation peak in the results.

5 13. A watermark detector according to claim 12 which further comprises means for performing any of the steps of the method according to claims 2-10.

10 14. A watermark detector according to claim 12 or 13 wherein the means for deriving a set of correlation results and the means for determining whether a watermark is present comprise a processor which is arranged to execute software for performing those functions.

15 15. Apparatus for presenting an information signal comprising means for disabling operation of the apparatus in dependence on the presence of a valid watermark in the information signal, wherein the apparatus comprises a watermark detector according to any one of claims 12-14.